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• LIFE •



SEAWANHAKA-CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB CUP,
WON BY "CINDERELLA."

WE MAKE
SOLID SILVER ONLY,
AND OF BUT
ONE GRADE—THAT OF STERLING $\frac{925}{1000}$ FINE;
THEREFORE
PURCHASERS SECURE
ENTIRE FREEDOM FROM
FALSE IMPRESSIONS,
AND THE QUESTION
"IS IT SILVER OR IS IT PLATED?"
IS NEVER RAISED
CONCERNING A GIFT
BEARING OUR
TRADE-MARK.

Solid Silver

Exclusively.



WHITING M'F'G CO.

Silversmiths,

Broadway & 18th Street,

NEW YORK.

Hilton, Hughes & Co.

Successors to

A. T. STEWART & CO.

Ladies' Cloaks.

250

Black Beaver Jackets

Full back lines, }
Large sleeves, }
Silk lined, }
11.85;
worth 18.50.

175

SAMPLE COATS

of BLACK BEAVER, }
BLACK CHEVIOT, }
BLUE " }
Latest Styles, }
19.50;
worth
25.00.
27.50.
30.00.

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for the money.

Broadway, 4th Ave., 9th & 10th Sts.

GRAND CENTRAL STATION in the
centre of New York City.
The Hudson River for one hundred
and fifty miles.
The beautiful Mohawk Valley in
which are some of the finest
landscapes in America.
Niagara Falls, the world's greatest
cataract.
The Adirondack Mountains, "the
Nation's pleasure ground
and Sanitarium."
The Empire State Express, the
fastest train in the world.
The Thousand Islands, the fisher-
man's paradise.
The New York and Chicago Lim-
ited, the most luxurious
train in the world.
Are a few of the many attractions
offered the public by the
NEW YORK CENTRAL,
"America's Greatest Railroad."

**Stern
Bros.**

direct attention
to their choice display of
**Gold and Silver
Jewelry, Trinkets,
Lorgnettes,
Opera Glasses,
Fans,
Leather Goods
with silver mountings
and
Sterling Silver
Toilet Articles
suitable for
Holiday Gifts.**

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for \$1.00, Postage Free.

Address Office of "LIFE,"

28 W. Twenty-third St., New York.

NOTICE.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "LIFE"
will please give old address
as well as new when re-
questing change of same.



LOVE AND COURTSHIP.

"I'M NOT THE FELLOW TO GO BACK ON YOU."
"AND I'M NOT THE GIRL TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE."

A RAPID WORKWOMAN.

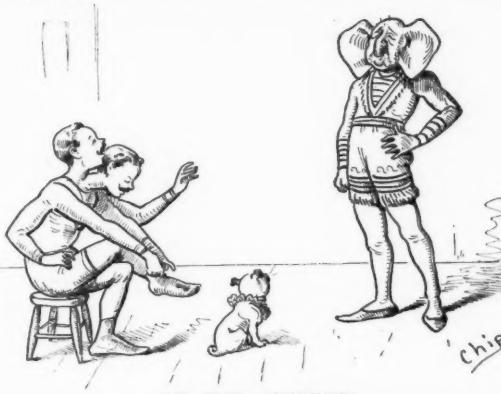
MRS. VON BLUMER: Are you fond of china painting?

MRS. PLANKINGTON: Oh, very.

MRS. VON BLUMER: And I suppose now, after your long training, you can work at it quite rapidly?

MRS. PLANKINGTON: Indeed, I can. Why, I manage to keep two or three pieces ahead of the cook all the time.

THE modern Lord's Prayer is usually for an American heiress.



AT THE MUSEUM.

The Human Elephant: SAY, THE INDIA RUBBER MAN GOT FULL LAST NIGHT.

The Double Headed Man: WHAT DID THEY DO TO HIM?
The Human Elephant: BOUNCED HIM.

THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.

IT had been over four months since they were engaged, and as they read the evening paper together, he said:

"See, my dear, only \$20 for a suit!"

"Is it a wedding suit?" she asked sweetly.

"No, a business suit."

"Well, I meant business," she answered.

POET: I wrote this poem, sir, to keep the wolf from the door.

EDITOR: My dear sir, you are at the wrong place. There is no wolf at this door.



"While there's Life there's Hope."

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THE Board of Education has authorized Commissioner Hubbell, one of their body, to do what he can to dissuade the boys of the public schools from smoking cigarettes. Commissioner Hubbell has no particular prejudice against other forms of tobacco, which he uses in his own family without deleterious results. But he has become convinced from his own observation and the representations of experienced teachers that the cigarette does a specific injury to lads of immature years. He wants to start an anti-cigarette league in the schools, and pledge all pupils who are willing, not to smoke cigarettes till they are twenty-one years old.

The Commissioner has undertaken a good work. The cigarette as he is smoked is deleterious to adults and poisonous to juveniles. Boys ought not to smoke him until they are old enough to know better. In a peculiar degree he is the enemy of education. He weakens the wills of young scholars, and diminishes and often destroys their powers of application. LIFE knows him thoroughly. He is no good. If Solomon the Wise had known him as LIFE does, he would have written a whole chapter of proverbs about him.

* * *

NOT even its recently acquired familiarity with the gloriousness of Chicago can reconcile Manhattan Island to the coal smoke nuisance. Coal smoke is very English, but even our most abandoned Angloamericans prefer not to have it at home. The New York Steam Company has never had any popularity to spare, and its disposition to economize in fuel at the community's expense will not raise it in the community's good graces. The secretary of the company declares that he has "all the best smoke-consuming talent in Chicago at work on a scheme to consume soft coal smoke." That is something like having all the best refrigerating talent in Hades at work on a scheme to produce cool weather. If the abilities of Chicago's smoke consuming talent are to be gauged by their success at home, even the promise of their distinguished aid may fail to allay

the apprehensions of the New Yorkers. The surest cure for the coal smoke nuisance seems to be to use the other kind of coal.

* * * *

THE abdominal dance does not seem to go down in New York. The police insist that it is a shocking performance and scandalously unfit for public exhibition. It is odd how differently it impresses different people, some persons regarding it as merely a curious show of muscular contortion, others as lewd, gross and intolerable. So far as LIFE can ascertain, the more decent the observers are the less they mind it. If that is so, it might be made useful as a measure of depravity, the morality of observers being rated in inverse proportion to their abhorrence of the spectacle. But to put it to such a use would hardly be fair to the police, who seem to be of one mind in condemning it as a shocking exhibition.

* * * *

WORD comes that the Harvard Annex is to be married by act of Legislature to the University, and with such a change of name as is proper under such circumstances will be known for the future as Radcliffe College. The wooing of the University by the Annex has been ardent and continuous, and its issue is no better fortune than the wooer merited. None but the brave deserve the fair. Some blushes, but

no misgivings, may show in Fair Harvard's countenance as she yields her coy hand to the determined Annex. She has a protector now upon whom she can rely—a backer who will be effectively vocal on the benches at match games, and who will see to it that she has fair play against the myrmidons of Eli Yale.

* * * *

LIFE congratulates Mr. J. J. Van Alen on ceasing to be the servant of a sovereign people, and recurring once more to the condition to him more familiar, of being one of the sovereigns. It is all very well to be the people's servant when one's services are appreciated, but when the people are dissatisfied with their hireling, and distract him from his duties by showers of maledictions and bad eggs, the situation is a good one to throw up.

After all, the Romans are said to be so deplorably poor, that playmates are scarce among them, and fun of a proper quality is hardly to be had at any price. LIFE cannot doubt that a man of Mr. Van Alen's tastes and felicitous circumstances can have a better time somewhere else.



CHRISTMAS AGAIN.

AND NOW SHE'S GROWN, HER TOYS ARE VERY LIKE THOSE THAT GAVE HER CHILDHOOD SUCH DELIGHT.

WHAT ANY WOMAN CAN DO.

YOUNG LADY: Oh! Oh! Oh! I never in the world could climb into that upper berth.

PORTER: Just imagine it's a tally-ho coach, ma'am.

"GOATS IS HUMAN," SAID MRS. TERENCE DUFFY TO HER FRIEND, MRS. BRIDGET GORMAN, LAST TUESDAY; "AN' I'LL TELL YEZ PHWHAT MAKES ME THINK SO. DO YEZ MOIND THAT WEE BIT OF A SHKATIN' POND I HAD FORNINST ME DOOR DOORIN' THE LATE



COLD SHNAP? PHWELL, IMAGINE MY SURPOISE UPON OPENIN' ME FRONT DOOR WAN MOR'R'NIN' AN' SEEIN' WAN O' ME GOATS MAKIN' A PAIR O' SHKATES IV HIS HOR-R-RNS AN' BEING PUSHED ALONG AS AISY AS YEZ PLAISE BY MACQUIGGAN'S BASTE FROM ACROST THE WAY—OH, THE SINSE AV IT!"

THE BEST MAN.

THERE was a wedding yesterday! Was there? Gracious, I trust this is not the bridegroom!

Oh no! The bridegroom and the bride have left for parts unknown. This gentleman was the best man.

He seems somewhat broken up. Is he a young man of intemperate habits?

No; his habits are not bad. He is simply a victim of matrimony.

I daresay he had aspired himself to the lady's hand, and has been drowning out his disappointment?

No. That is not it either. There were one or two ex-aspireurs among the ushers, but the best man was simply a faithful friend of the groom.

His fidelity seems to have brought him in for some onerous obligations.

It is true. His responsibilities and anxieties of his position have aged him somewhat.

Is it indeed so serious a job to be a best man? Indeed it is.

Why, what is there to do?

For twenty-four hours before the wedding the best man is the responsible owner of the groom. He tacitly undertakes to produce the groom at the church, clean shaven, suitably attired, and in his right mind, or else to take his place. If the groom shows symptoms of running away, he must shackle him. Some best men invariably handcuff themselves to their grooms on the morning of the day before the wedding as a reasonable precaution against accidents, for when a best man's confidence has been abused once or twice it makes him cautious. At the convivial exercises of the day

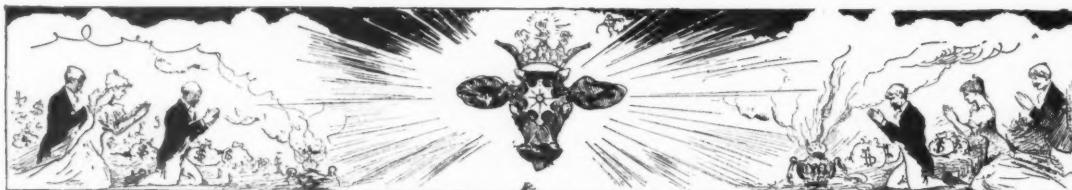
before the wedding several score of the groom's more intimate friends always insist on taking drinks with him. The cumulative effect of so much sympathetic stimulant is liable to make trouble, so the best man does not permit the groom to over-indulge his feelings. The usual way is for the best man to act as the groom's proxy in this matter, so that the night before the wedding is full of trouble for him. Nevertheless he must be up early the next morning, must see that the bridesmaids have all received their bouquets, that he has the minister's money in the right pocket, that he has a wedding ring in each of his pockets, that the carriage orders are understood, that the groom has made adequate provision for his wedding journey and that the ushers are presentable and can walk. All this he must do without letting the groom leave his sight. When the wedding is over and he has consigned his charge to the care of the bride, he takes the groom's place as host, and sees in particular that the groom's friends from out of town are suitably entertained, and shipped home at convenient intervals on their proper trains. Only when the last of them is gone can he call his man and go home to bed.

Is a man ever best man more than once?

Some very popular men have been best man as often as a dozen times, but usually one or two experiences is enough to convince the experimenter that matrimony itself is a less trying ordeal.

HIDDEN LUMINOSITY.

“THIS lamp is so heavy I can hardly carry it.”
“Why don't you turn up the wick!”



A FRIENDLY WORD.

IF Marie Antoinette, Mr. William Shakespere, Frederick the Great, Venus, Dante, Napoleon, Cleopatra, and Captain Kidd should appear at a social gathering on Madison Avenue, the American public would be very greedy for details of the event. The bare announcement of their presence would send a thrill of excitement throughout the world. Such is not the case when we read of the presence of Mrs. Fred Neilson, Mrs. Burke-Roche, Mrs. Charles F. Havemeyer, Mrs. Paran Stevens, Mrs. George L. Rives, Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. Henry Sloane, Miss Randolph, Mrs. William D. Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Albert Stevens, Mrs. Duncan Elliot, Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, Mr. and Mrs. James Lorillard Kernochan, Mr. and Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mrs. Fernando Yznaga, Mrs. W. Seward Webb, Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Henry Clews, Mrs. William

Jay, Mrs. Arthur Randolph, Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Edward Padelford, Mrs. George B. De Forest at some public or private entertainment, particularly when we have already seen these same names a great many times; for it is a lamentable fact that the original excitement decreases with each repetition. It forcibly illustrates the evils of injudicious advertising. While Marie Antoinette, Mr. William Shakespere and the others may be less interesting personally, the ladies and gentlemen just mentioned fail to create a proper enthusiasm, partly because the novelty of their presence has disappeared.

LIFE does not care to go into a discussion as to what extent these estimable ladies and gentlemen possess the qualifications for a permanent popularity. He only wishes to assert, as a friend, that the constant reiteration of their names in the public press is not arousing that joyful interest which they themselves may possibly imagine.

THESE LEADERS OF THOUGHT.

FIRST NEWSPAPER WOMAN (*tying on her dotted veil*): I interviewed an oculist last week about these veils. They are very injurious.

SECOND NEWSPAPER WOMAN (*tying on hers*): Yes; they make my eyes ache horribly. I've written it up, too.

H E: You say there are no flowers for the dinner table! Where are the chrysanthemums I sent home?

SHE: Oh, George, don't speak so loud, you might hurt Bridget's feelings; she didn't understand what they were and has cooked them in milk!

“YOU look very dull this morning,” said the fresh traveller to the conductor on a Western train; “what's the matter. Sick?”

“No, only bored. Why, man alive, we haven't been held up and robbed for three whole days!”

NEW BOOKS.

LIFE OF EDWIN BOOTH. By William Winter. New York and London: Macmillan and Company.

More English Fairy Tales. Collected and Edited by Joseph Jacobs, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. London: D. Nutt.

Two Soldiers and a Politician. By Clinton Ross. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Old Court Life in France. By Frances Elliot. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Knickerbocker's History of New York. By Washington Irving. Illustrations by E. W. Kemble. Van Twiller Edition. Two Volumes. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Montezuma's Daughter. By H. Rider Haggard. New York: Longmans, Green, and Company.

The River and Wilderness Series. I. Lena-Wingo. II. The Wilderness Fugitives. III. The River Fugitives. By Edward S. Ellis. St. Paul: The Price-McGill Company.



He: So you were never in love?

She: No; but I've been engaged to lots of men who were.

“DON’T Blow the Gas Out,” was the sign.

Quoth Farmer Jones “all right.” And so he tucked himself in bed And let it burn all night.

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS.

IT was only a matter of a few days before Frank Norton’s wedding, but unless Tiffany’s engravers can do wonders, the happy event may have to be postponed.

Frank came up town from business rather early one afternoon this week, and as he reached the foot of the elevated stairway at Thirty-third Street, a thick, cream-laid envelope was thrust into his hand.

He opened it leisurely, merely wondering what tradesman was sending out so swell an advertisement, and was dumfounded to discover it contained one of his own wedding cards.

He hurried back in time to see the messenger boy press a few more of the dainty invitations on a miscellaneous assortment of strangers who came straggling down the steps, and then collaring the uniformed urchin, asked him for an explanation.

“You little rascal, what are you doing with those cards?” he demanded.

“I’m givin’ ‘em out fair and square!” protested the messenger. “I hope to die, I haven’t give more’n one to anybody!”

“Where did you get them?” asked Frank, again.

“Off frum a lady in Forty Street near Fift’ Avener. She told me to distribute ‘em this afternoon,” he said, with a glow of honest pride; “and I’ve give out four hundred in less’n an hour!”

Harry Romaine.



COMING DOWN WITH THE DUST.

FIRST YALESIAN: Did you break the news to poor Jack’s father and mother gently?

SECOND YALESIAN: Yes; sent ‘em *two* telegrams, you know. First read “Jack killed in game;” and second: “Princeton wins.”

• LIFE



THE CLIMAX OF A CHRISTMAS

• LIFE •



F A CHRISTMAS GHOST STORY.

A MUSICAL SUGGESTION.

COMPOSE a liquid melody
For any drinking song;
Providing stops at every bar,
The motive to prolong.

"THERE was a man came in here the other day," thoughtfully remarked the elevator man, as he slammed the door to in the face of the man who was in a hurry, "who wanted to bet \$500 to \$50 on the big game—and I took him up."

THE DREAM OF THE WOULD-BE MISSIONARY.



DELUSED, BUT HAPPY.

"THERE is no use in trying to deny it," said one young man to another. "Blimmins is badly married. I hate to say it, but it's so."

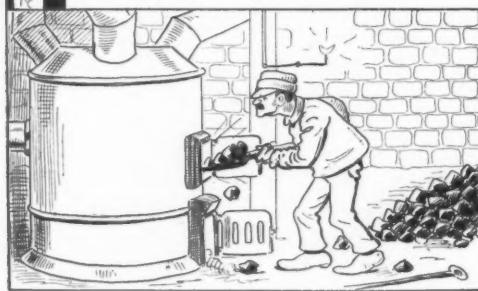
"How do you know?"

"By a talk I have just had with him."

"Does he complain?"

"No. That's the pathetic part of it. He was telling me how good natured and clever his wife is, because, this morning, she showed him how to fasten his suspender with a hairpin."

WITH many people distance lends enchantment to a pew.



MORE FILTH.

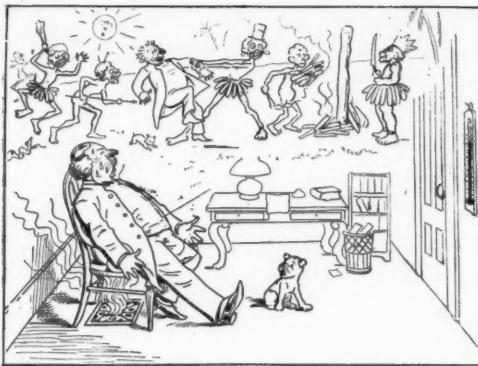
M R. BURNAND, the editor of our esteemed but defunct contemporary, *London Punch*, noted in his "Happy Thoughts" that exasperating habit of a repartee never to present itself to one's consciousness until the proper time to use it has irretrievably passed. To remedy this evil he proposed to compile an alphabetical book of repartees which one might carry in his pocket, and thus always be ready. It would start, for example, with "Repartees to an Artillerist," and running through the A's, "Repartees to a Butcher," etc., "Repartees to a Cabman," etc., go through the whole alphabet.

In "A Woman of No Importance," Mr. Oscar Wilde has done somewhat the same thing. Having secured a nasty plot and arranged his scenario, he has evidently propounded to himself a lot of questions on nasty social subjects, and then, at his leisure, composed more or less witty replies to them. These he has mingled with a number of nasty platitudes and then, at various spots in the play, drags portions of this concoction in by the heels to serve as dialogue.

Mr. Wilde does not seem to be thoroughly at home in anything but nastiness. It is only natural, therefore, that he should choose for the motive of his play a social sin, and then revel in the depiction and dissection of its consequences. He does not even pretend to draw a moral or teach a lesson by this uncovering of a filth heap. He disgusts us by an exhibition of horrid scars and running sores, but only to gratify curiosity and gain money—not to cure a disease nor find a remedy. He has torn every garment from his prurient fancy, decked it with tinsel witticisms to heighten its nudity, and lets his vanity glow with satisfaction at whatever notice the debasement of his intellect attracts.

It is pitiful that there is a likelihood of this play's making money for its author. Not that any one begrudges him even the price of a good strong rope, but because the financial success of a bad thing incites other bad productions. And, unfortunately, the patrons of such a play are not the people who could witness it without harm.





The people who rush to such a *succès d'estime* are the shallow-pated, the weak-minded, and the easily led. They applaud cheap wit, drink in wrong principles, and go away with the idea that their intellects have been appealed to by a sage and a philosopher. Any one who observes the crowd dispersing from one of Mr. Wilde's matinees can determine quickly the class of women to whom his plays appeal most strongly. Unfortunately, among them will be found some respectable young women.

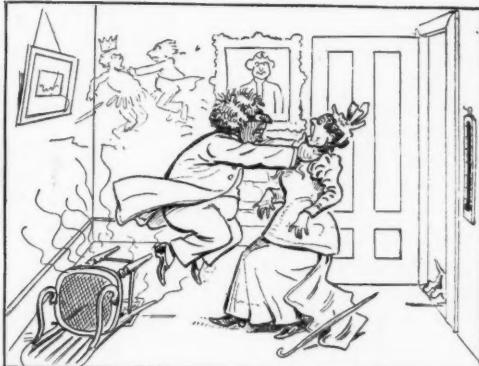
If Miss Rose Coghlan's part were a great one, or if in it she did any great acting, it would be worthy of notice. As it is, her greater prominence as an accessory to a crime against the morals of the stage obscures entirely the work of the artist. Mr. Maurice Barrymore is unfortunate in always permitting himself to be cast for a line of parts for which he is entirely unsuited. He has force and an intelligence rare upon the American stage, but he should eschew dress-clothes forever and confine himself to the heroic. The rest of the cast is admirable and shows thorough and skilful rehearsing.

LIFE's protests against such plays as "A Woman of No Importance" may be unavailing, but it would be dishonest and cowardly if it did not protest. People who believe with us may think that silence is the better policy, that in protesting we only better advertise. This may be to some extent true, but the reader who, advised in advance, yet patronizes such a performance, puts himself on record. On the other hand it may be that the truth plainly spoken will save some decent-minded people from disgust.

We are glad that the playwright is not an American. To the credit of American dramatists be it said that they have adhered mostly to that which is clean. Would that as much could be said of our writers, but our news-stands are witnesses to the contrary. Fortunately, though, the men who opened the flood-gates of filth into American literature have gone back into the obscurity whence they emerged, and thanks to a certain natural cleanliness of the American mind, there is a possibility that they have left no permanent impress on the literary product of our times. May the same fate attend any American dramatist who seeks to be a disciple in the nasty school of Oscar Wilde.

* * *

IF you would intoxicate your eye with color and form and light, see "America" at the Metropolitan Opera House. In it Kiralfy out-Kiralfy's himself and we have "Nero," "Babylon" and all the



rest of them increased, enlarged and eternally outdone. If you want an optical spree, the Metropolitan Opera House on off nights is the place to have it.

Metcalfe.

IN THE BLOOD.

"**F**ADDER, you must make Shakie stop!"
"Vot vos he doing, mine sohn?"

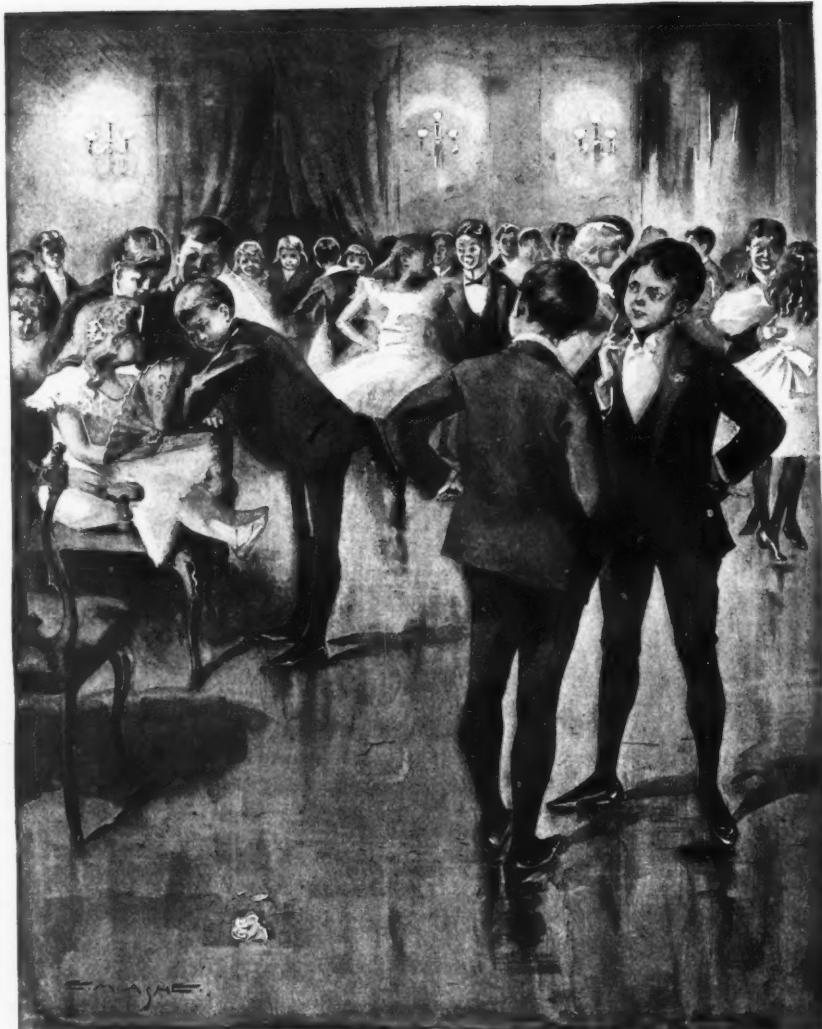
"He vas about wear oudt der \$-sign on-dis dtye-writer, playing mit it all day long."

TENACITY OF LIFE.

"IT is an astonishing thing how some species of animals will cling to life," said Longbow, as he hesitated between the choice of a coffee-berry and a clove. "I read in an authentic work, a short time ago, that an alligator will go on fighting for hours after the brain has been removed from its body."

"How long have you been studying Natural History?" asked Whoppers, with a rapid but comprehensive survey of the free lunch table.

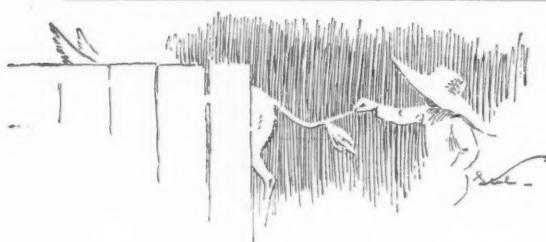
"Not long," answered Longbow. "But I was thinking of the extraordinary way a lobster I saw yesterday held on to his time on earth. I went into the Arcadia and ordered a broiled live lobster. After I had ordered it, I told old Shuffles, the head waiter, that the last one I had was evidently boiled several days before it was broiled. 'Come with me,' he says, and took me into the kitchen. There stood the cook, with uplifted knife, over an enormous green-bodied lobster that was frothing at the gills with passion. The knife came down and Mr. Lob spread himself out in two equal divisions, but was livelier than ever. Two more blows severed the claws from the body, but each claw continued to gnash its teeth with rage. One caught hold of the knife and tried to get it away from the cook, but the blade was so sharp it had to let go. In another minute it was writhing on the silver grill with a vigor that would have shamed any one of Mr. Fox's most active martyrs. I thought the struggle would never end, but at last,



OVERHEARD AT DANCING SCHOOL.

"GLADYS HAS LOTS OF ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH SHE IS NOT REALLY PRETTY."

"YES, AND YOU MAY DEPEND UPON IT, WHEN A GIRL HAS LOTS OF ATTENTION AND IS NOT PRETTY THAT SHE IS FAST."



A DANGEROUS CONCLUSION TO DRAW.

with a deep sigh, he gave up the ghost, and, as he did so, blushed a rosy red with shame at what he thought his weakness."

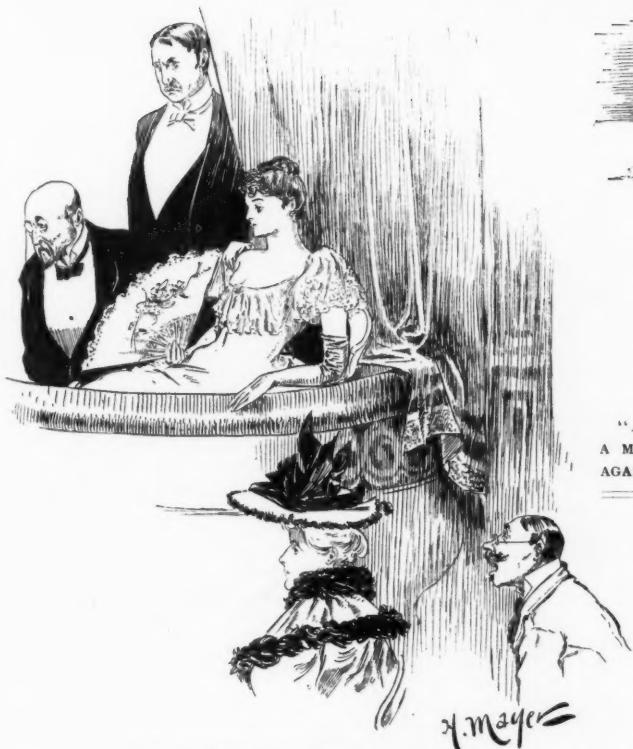
"What'll y'have?" asked Whoppers, tersely.

"Same," responded Longbow, a gleam of triumph in his eye.

"As you say," said Whoppers, as he paid for the drinks, "lobsters are very tenacious of life. But they're not in it with eels."

"Is this another fish story?" asked Longbow cynically, but with a faint suspicion of approaching discomfiture.

"Well, I suppose an eel is a fish as much as a lobster," retorted Whoppers, curtly. "But I was going to give you a specimen



THE MYSTERIES OF FASHION.

Observer (sotto voce): WELL, I WONDER IF IT'S COLD IN HERE OR WARM!

of what the eel can do in the clinging-to-life line.

"I was fishing for pike in Sloppy Creek a couple of summers ago and, one day, pulled out the largest eel I ever saw in my life. I won't tell you how large he was because, if I did, you might doubt the rest of it. He was not only big, he was athletic. He was the contortionist eel that ever sucked a bait off a hook. One minute he'd be pirouetting on the end of his tail, then he'd stand on his neck and go through all the evolutions of a skirt-dancer with the rest of him. I had brought with me the biggest basket I could find in Sloppyville, but try as I would, I couldn't double that eel up and get him in the basket. Finally, when we'd both agreed on a breathing spell, I picked up an axe while he was resting, and, with one blow, cut him clean in two. Do you think that quieted him? Not a bit of it. The two ends looked up at me with mingled hatred and reproach and, before I could get the basket anywhere near them, had jumped back into the creek. Now comes the most curious part of it. What do you suppose the consequence was?"



"AH, HA! I'VE GOT YOU NOW, HAVE I? WILL YOU EVER CALL ME A MOP-HEADED WAGNERIAN UPROAR WHEN I SING IN THE EVENING, AGAIN?"

"I haven't the remotest idea," replied Longbow, uneasily.

"Well, I'll tell you," said Whoppers, in that impressive way of his that always made his friends squirm. "Subsequent investigation proved that the two ends of that eel married each other and raised a whole colony of bifurcated eellets!"

Longbow looked at Whoppers long and earnestly without uttering a word.

"Mine's whiskey," suggested the latter, as he returned the look with a frank, ingenuous smile.

Ernest Graham Dewey.



"IF I ONLY HAD A CHIMNEY, AND A STOCKING TO HANG UP!"



I ARRIVED in a small town in Kentucky late at night with three other men, and when we reached the hotel two of us were assigned to a room. The one I got had two beds in it, however, and I was not disposed to find fault. My room-mate seemed to be a suspicious sort of chap, and when I tumbled into bed, with a good-night to him, he scarcely deigned a reply. I was asleep in ten minutes, but two hours later I awoke to find him still sitting in his chair and wide awake.

"Hello! What ails you?" I asked.

"Nothing."

"Troubled with insomnia?"

"No."

"Sleep all day?"

"No."

"Afraid of me?"

"To be honest with you, stranger, I am," he admitted.

"That seems funny. Do I look like a thief?"

"No, you don't; but I have done some figuring in this. You gave the landlord your wallet and watch, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, there's more value than he has probably ever seen before. He'll skip with your stuff before daylight."

"Well!"

"And then you'll have to rob me to get on. Stranger, I'm a man as don't never take no chances. I've got a revolver here, and the first move you make to get out of bed I'll plug you!"

"I can turn over, can't I?"

"Yes, but be powerful careful about it, for I'm up to snuff."

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I turned over and went to sleep again, and when morning came his moving around awoke me. I tried to joke him, but he was sour and morose and wouldn't take it. When we went down stairs it was to find the colored help sitting in the early sun, with no move towards breakfast.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"Mars — has done gone an' left de place in de night, an' dar's nobody to boss!" was the reply.

My room-mate had figured "right smart." — *Philadelphia Call*.

"CHOLLY's in disgwace at the club again!" said Willie Wibbles.

"Deah! Deah! You don't say so. He's always in trouble, isn't he. It was only lawst week that he came out without his twousahs wooled up."

"It's worse this time."

"How?"

"This mohning he forgot to bwush and comb his chwysanthemum!" — *Washington Star*.

A GENTLEMAN travelling on the Great Northern Railway, having delivered his luggage to the care of a porter, made himself comfortable in the corner of a carriage. The porter came to the carriage for the "reward of merit."

"Well," said the gentleman, "I see by the letters 'G. N. R.' on your cap, 'Gratuities never received.'"

"A little mistake, sir," replied the porter. "It should be: 'Gratuities never refused.'" — *London Snap-Shots*.

CREDITOR (roughly): Say, when are you going to pay me that bill?

DEBTOR (genially): My friend, you put me in mind of a little child.

C.: I do, do I? Why?

D.: Because a little child can ask questions that the wisest men cannot answer. — *N. Y. Press*.

A good old lady said to her nephew, a poor preacher:

"James, why did you enter the ministry?"

"Because I was called," he answered.

"James," said the old lady anxiously as she looked up from wiping her spectacles, "are you sure it wasn't some other noise you heard?" — *Lynn Item*.

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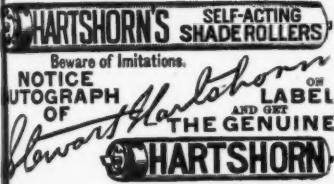
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"He is not hitting at her. Keep quiet."

"Well, then, what does she holler so for?"—*Yankee Blade.*

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SHE: Because.—*Detroit Tribune.*

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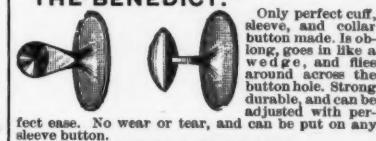
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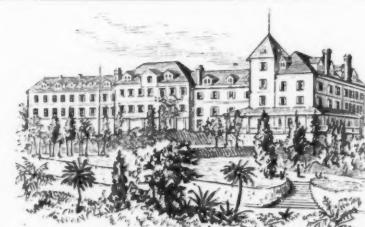
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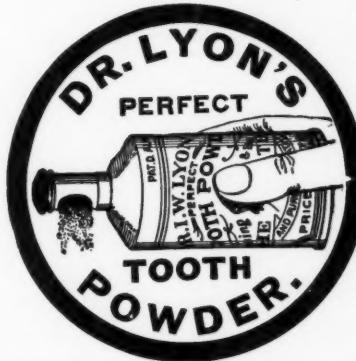
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